REMARKS

Support for amended claims 11 and 22 can be found in the examples, in particular table 1 at page 9 of the specification. Support for newly added claim 33 can be found in claim 1 and in the specification at page 3, line 11 and page 4, line 36. Support for newly added claim 34 can be found in the specification at page 3, lines 17-21. Support for newly added claims 35-37 can be found in the specification at page 3, lines 13-16 and 35-39. Support for newly added claims 38-44 can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 1-26. Claims 11-44 are pending. Claims 11 and 33 are the independent claims. Claims 33- 44 have been added. A fee of $216.00 is enclosed for the total extra 12 claims over twenty added by this amendment.

Claims 11-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Galland et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,600,039 ("Galland"). Claims 11-18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nappa et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,475,167 ("Nappa"). Claims 11-17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonniface et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,672,786 ("Bonniface").

The applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn. The applicants have amended independent claim 22 so that it further limits independent claim 11.

Again, the applicants have two independent claims (claims 11 and 33). The applicants' claimed invention of claim 11 is directed to a hydrofluorination catalyst based on chromium oxide which is contains ammonium salt and which exhibits a content of ammonium salts of less than or equal to 0.2% by weight, expressed in the form of NH_4^+, with respect to the content of chromium in the catalyst, expressed in the form of Cr_2O_3 (see independent claim 11). The

applicants' claimed invention of claim 33 is directed to a method for preparing a hydrofluorination catalyst based on chromium oxide, which comprises

(a) a synthesis step for the chromium oxide,

(b) a step wherein the chromium oxide obtained according to step (a) is depleted in ammonium salts, so as to form a chromium oxide which comprises ammonium salts, in an amount of less than or equal to 0.2% by weight in the form of NH_4+, with respect to the content of chromium in the catalyst expressed in the form of Cr_2O_3.

The chromium oxide in independent claims 11 and 33 **contains ammonium salts** however, in a very low amount, in amount less than or equal to 0.2%. The Examiner will note that in table 1 at page 9 of the applicants' specification, lists the amount of the % of NH_4^+ present in the catalyst examples. Examples 2-8 correspond to a catalyst according to the applicants' claimed invention. The applicants were able to achieve a yield of at least 30 mol% using the claimed catalyst.

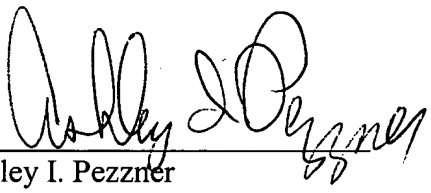
Galland and Bonniface do not disclose nor teach the presence of any NH_4^+. Nappa does not teach the use of ammonium present in the chromium oxide in amount less than or equal to 0.2%. It is acknowledged that Nappa discloses pyrolysis of $(NH_4)_2Cr_2O_7$ to prepare a Cr_2O_3 catalyst (see col. 2, lines 40-55 and in the example at col. 4, lines 29-32 (cited by the Examiner)). However, there is no disclosure of the amount of NH_4+ present in the Cr_2O_3 catalyst. For the above reasons, these rejections should be withdrawn.

A two month extension of time has been paid.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 05129-00047-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Ashley I. Pezzner
Registration No.: 35,646
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1007 North Orange Street
P.O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 658-9141
(302) 658-5614 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant